



03500.015359

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
: MAKOTO HIRAMATSU )  
: Application No.: 09/853,706 )  
: Filed: May 14, 2001 )  
: For: IMAGE INPUT APPARATUS )

Examiner: J. Misleh

Group Art Unit: 2612

November 19, 2004

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Technology Center 2600

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Applicant respectfully traverses the election of species requirement set forth in the Office Action dated October 21, 2004, requiring election from among the species shown in Figures 1-18 (1<sup>st</sup> species), Figures 19-26 (2<sup>nd</sup> species), and Figures 27-31 (3<sup>rd</sup> species).

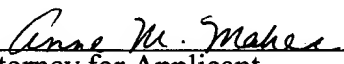
Requiring an election of species is a discretionary matter for the Examiner, and need not be imposed in every instance. Applicant submits that in this application, the various species are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. Accordingly, neither Applicant nor the Patent and Trademark Office should be put to the trouble and expense entailed in multiple filing and prosecution. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the public at large should not be required to obtain and study separate patent documents in order to have available all of the issued patent claims covering the invention.

Nevertheless, in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, Applicant provisionally elects Species I represented by Figures 1-18. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-7 and 16-22 read on the elected species.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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